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Provisional summary record of the 50th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 23 July 2004, at 10 a.m.

President:	Mr. Aliyev (Vice-President)	(Azerbaijan)
later:	Mr. Penjo (Vice-President)	(Bhutan)
later:	Mr. Koonjul (Vice-President)	(Mauritius)

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In the absence of Ms. Rasi (Finland), Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.33

1. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.33, entitled "Adoption of the theme and consultations on a multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council".

2. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.33 was adopted.*

(b) Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, with due consideration to least developed countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.18

3. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.18 entitled "Coordinated and integrated United Nations system approach to promoting rural development in developing countries, for poverty eradication and sustainable development".

4. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.18 was adopted.*

Draft resolutions E/2004/L.16 and E/2004/L.32

5. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions E/2004/L.16 and E/2004/L.32, entitled "United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development".

6. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.32 was adopted.*

7. **The President** said that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/2004/L.32, he took it that the sponsors of draft resolution E/2004/L.16 wished to withdraw that draft.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. *Mr. Penjo (Bhutan), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.35

10. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.35, entitled "Theme for the high-level segment of the 2005 substantive session of the Council".

11. **The Secretary** drew attention to three minor changes in draft resolution E/2004/L.35. Preambular paragraph 13 and operative paragraph 12 should be deleted from the draft resolution and in the third line of operative paragraph 45, the word "including" should be replaced by the word "in", so that the line should read " ... and needs assessment in full participation by affected States ... ".

12. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.35, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Oral decision on documentation submitted under agenda item 5

13. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique, contained in document A/59/86-E/2004/69.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. *Mr. Koonjul (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2004/65)

Oral decision on the theme for the high-level segment of the 2005 substantive session of the Council

16. **The President** said that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/227, paragraph 53, annex I, the Council had been requested to undertake consultations on the theme for the high-level segment. In that connection, the Council had held informal discussions on the theme, and had reached consensus on the text of an oral decision, which read:

> "Decides to adopt the following theme for the 2005 high-level segment, and in this context underlines the importance of development issues and that the discussions on this theme will cover and shall be within the mandate of the Council: 'Achieving the

internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities'".

He took it that the Council wished to adopt the oral decision.

17. *It was so decided.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (*continued*) (A/59/16, E/2004/67 and E/AC.51/2004/7)

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*) (A/59/6)

18. **The President** noted that the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) had requested that the Council should defer consideration of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session, contained in document A/59/16, and the relevant programmes of the proposed strategic framework of the biennium 2006-2007 (A/59/6) to a later date. He took it that the Council agreed to defer consideration of those sub-items.

19. *It was so decided.*

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics (*continued*) (E/2004/78)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.28

20. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.28, entitled "The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States".

21. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.28 was adopted.*

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (*continued*) (E/2004/80)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.44

22. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.44, entitled "Long-term programme of support for Haiti".

23. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.44 was adopted.*

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*continued*) (E/2004/59)

24. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, contained in document E/2004/59.

25. *It was so decided.*

(g) Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.42

26. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/2004/L.42, entitled "Information and communication technologies for development".

27. *Draft decision E/2004/L.42 was adopted.*

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.23

28. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations", and noted that at the time of the resolution's introduction, Grenada, Nigeria and the Sudan had joined the list of co-sponsors.

29. **Mr. Loosdrecht** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union (in explanation of vote before the voting), said that the European Union wished to renew its support for the specialized agencies in their efforts to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the humanitarian, technical and education fields. However, the European Union

felt that the statutes of the agencies must be carefully respected, and that the issues addressed in the resolution before the Council did not fall within the competence of the Council. It would therefore abstain in the vote on the resolution.

30. **Mr. Nebenzia** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation continued to support the translation into action of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence. However, discussion of such a political issue went beyond the mandate of the Council. His delegation therefore advocated removing the issues from the Council's agenda. As in previous years, it would abstain in the vote on draft resolution E/2004/L.23.

31. **Ms. Howe-Jones** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom would abstain from the voting. Her delegation wished to align itself fully with the position of the European Union, but also wished to comment on the language in preambular paragraph 6 and operative paragraphs 13 and 16. The United Kingdom believed that the rights of Non-Self-Governing Territories to participate in and access the Council and its subsidiary bodies, the specialized agencies, world conferences under the auspices of the United Nations and institutions associated with the United Nations should be applied on the basis of equality and non-discrimination. It was inappropriate for the Council and the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization to discuss the issues in the resolution before the Council with the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes.

32. **Mr. Fox** (United States of America) said that his delegation recognized that the specialized agencies had the responsibility to carry out their mandates in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, the agencies and organizations involved did not require guidance beyond that which was already provided in their respective mandates. It was inappropriate to link the work of the specialized agencies to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Therefore, as in the past, the United States — having called for a vote on the resolution — would abstain.

33. **Mr. Gala López** (Cuba) said that the following Member States had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/2004/L.23: Burundi, China, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Jamaica, Malaysia, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. On behalf of the sponsors, his delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be supported by the vast majority of delegations to the Council, especially those from developing countries.

34. *A recorded vote was taken on draft decision E/2004/L.23.*

In favour:

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Belgium.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

35. *Draft resolution was adopted by 33 to 1, with 19 abstentions.*

36. **Mr. Shimizu** (Japan) said his Government supported colonial peoples in their aspirations for self-determination and independence. He had abstained in the voting because the mandate of the Council did not extend to political issues such as those in the resolution.

37. **Mr. Niang** (Senegal) said that he had intended to vote for the resolution; the vote recorded for his delegation was incorrect.

38. **The President** said he would request a check to be made on the voting mechanism.

39. **Mr. Bontemps** (Belgium) said that his vote should have been recorded as an abstention.

Oral decision on the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/59/121-E/2004/88)

40. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on

assistance to the Palestinian people, contained in document A/59/121-E/2004/88.

41. *It was so decided.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*) (E/2004/33, E/2004/12-E/CN.17/2004/3, E/2004/L.45)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.45

42. **The President** referred the Council to the report of the Committee on Development Policy (E/2004/33), which he had submitted on the basis of informal consultations. He invited the Council to adopt the draft resolution contained in E/2004/L.45.

43. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.45 was adopted.*

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (E/2004/31)

44. **The President** invited the Council to take up the report of the seventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, contained in document E/2004/31. Chapter I contained one draft resolution and two draft decisions calling for action by the Council.

Draft decision I

45. **The President** invited the Council to adopt draft decision I, entitled "Contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council".

46. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

47. **The President** suggested that the Council should decide to take note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its seventh session, and to postpone consideration of the draft resolution contained in the report to its resumed session.

48. *It was so decided.*

(d) Human settlements

Draft decision E/2004/L.22

49. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.22 entitled "Human settlements", which had been submitted by the delegation of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

50. *Draft decision E/2004/L.22 was adopted.*

(e) Environment (A/59/25, E/2004/L.46)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.46

51. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.46, entitled: "Protection against products harmful to health and the environment".

52. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.46 was adopted*

53. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighth special session, contained in document A/59/25.

54. *It was so decided.*

(g) Public administration and development (E/2004/44, E/2004/L.50)

Draft decision E/2004/L.50

55. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/2004/L.50, entitled "Public administration", which he had submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

56. *Draft decision E/2004/L.50 was adopted.*

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions (A/58/346, E/2004/72)

57. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (E/2004/72) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/58/346).

58. *It was so decided.*

(k) Cartography

59. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to endorse the recommendations contained in

the report of the Secretary-General on the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/2004/64) and the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/2004/57).

60. *It was so decided.*

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 12.45 p.m.

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (*continued*) (A/59/89-E/2004/21, E/2004/L.25)

Draft resolution E/2004/L.25

61. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2004/L.25, entitled, "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan". He noted that Malaysia, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

62. **Mr. Niewenhuis** (Netherlands) speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, as a result of informal consultations, several revisions should be made to the draft resolution. The words "and ES-1016 of 20 July 2004", referring to the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on Israel's construction of the dividing wall, should be added to the end of preambular paragraph 4. In preambular paragraph 10, "*Alarmed by*" should be replaced by "*Also gravely concerned by*". In preambular paragraph 12, "*Welcoming*" should be replaced by "*Acknowledging*". A preambular paragraph 16 should be added, to read "*Calling on* both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet".

63. **Mr. Ayari** (Tunisia) said that the oral revisions made by the representative of the European Union reflected the understanding reached during informal consultations and proposed that the Observer delegation of Palestine should be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/2004/L.25.

64. **Mr. Niang** (Senegal) said that Senegal had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

65. **Mr. Fox** (United States) speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his country's Mid-East policy was focused on achieving President Bush's vision of the two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. The essential requirements for such a solution were an effective Palestinian security performance, renewal of a serious political process aimed at a two-State solution and response to humanitarian needs through the building of strong, responsible Palestinian Authority institutions in preparation for statehood. One-sided resolutions like the one at hand undermined the credibility of the work done in the Council and did nothing to improve the situation in the region and of the people in need of help. His country opposed actions that diverted attention from the practical steps that the Quartet and its partners in the international and regional communities must take to move the parties towards realization of the two-State vision. For that reason it voted against the recent General Assembly resolution relating to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Israeli security barrier. However, it remained concerned about the routing of the barrier and its effects on the Palestinian people and the negotiating process. He appealed to the Council to work effectively on practical steps to address the needs of the Palestinians and to bring both parties back to the path towards peace.

66. **Mr. Choi** (Australia) said that his country shared the concern of the international community about the lot of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and remained committed to relieving their suffering. Australia, however, had particular reservations about the advisory opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory and had voted against the General Assembly resolution referring the matter to the Court because of concern that it would distract the parties from the urgent need to resume negotiations. In addition, the text of the resolution should have contained more reference to the responsibility of both parties to contain violence. His country would abstain from voting on draft resolution E/2004/L.25 because it strongly believed that such resolutions should be dealt with in a

more appropriate United Nations forum. Nor could his country accept the automatic transmission of the issue to the 2005 session of the Council while the need to streamline its agenda remained.

67. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2004/L.25.*

In favour:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia.

68. *Draft resolution E/2004/L.25, as orally revised, was adopted by 51 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

69. **Mr. Shimizu** (Japan) said his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it believed that the Quartet and the international community including Egypt were making every effort to ensure the withdrawal of Israel from Gaza, which should lead to reactivation of the Road Map. His country supported and encouraged those efforts. Nevertheless, the record should show that, in Japan's opinion, it was not appropriate for the Council to discuss such political issues.

70. **Mr. Loosdrecht** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, expressed deep concern at the continuing humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories and called on Israel, in line with Security Council resolution 1544 (2004), to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, to cease demolitions and to take urgent action to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians. Israel should facilitate the movement of Palestinian people and goods and access by international humanitarian organizations into the territories, remove outposts, reverse the settlement activity and end land confiscation. While recognizing Israel's right to self-defence and to protect its citizens the European Union noted that that right must be exercised in consonance with international law.

71. The European Union expressed concern at the continuing violence affecting both Israelis and Palestinians. It repeated its call for an end to terrorist attacks by extremist groups. It called on the Palestinian Authority to take action against those involved in terrorism and on Israel to cease demolitions and to take urgent action to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

72. The European Union welcomed the outcome of the Quartet meeting held in New York on 4 May and 24 July 2004. It also welcomed the renewal of the Beirut Peace Initiative of the League of Arab States and the League's rejection of acts of violence against civilians without discrimination. The World Bank's Trust Fund was a commendable initiative worth supporting by the international community.

73. The European Union welcomed the prospect of Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, which would represent a significant step towards the implementation of the road map. It reaffirmed its belief that the road map represented the only route to achieving a negotiated two-State solution, and called for renewed efforts towards a comprehensive ceasefire.

74. **Ms. Price** (Canada) said that her country was gravely concerned by the current humanitarian, economic and social situation in the Palestinian territories. While Canada affirmed Israel's right to security, the construction of a barrier inside the occupied territory of the West Bank and East Jerusalem would work against a negotiated solution and exacerbate the dire humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people. Widespread closures and curfews, limits on freedom of movement and impeded humanitarian access to those in need had contributed to the decline in the living conditions and poverty of Palestinians. Israel must help to improve that situation. Although Canada had voted in favour of

the resolution, it questioned whether the Council was the most appropriate forum to consider the issue. The Palestinian Authority must implement reforms in the security sector and use all available means to combat terrorism. It had an interest to develop strong and accountable institutions that would advance the development and address the humanitarian needs of its people. Canada would readily assist in the negotiations for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and hoped that both parties would abide by their commitments under the Road Map sponsored by the Quartet.

75. **Mr. Nebenzia** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because the Council needed to be guided by the General Assembly resolutions reaffirming the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to their own natural resources and calling on Israel not to exploit or threaten those resources in the occupied territories. The position of his delegation was reflected in the road map of the Quartet and opposed any unilateral action that would jeopardize the peace process. It was regrettable that the issue had distracted the Council from focusing on its mandate to coordinate the social and economic development activities of the United Nations system.

76. **Mr. Sermoneta** (Observer for Israel) said that by singling out one party and calling on it to take unilateral action, the draft resolution was prejudging the outcome of negotiations and straying from the original focus of the living conditions of the Palestinians to extraneous issues like settlements in Jerusalem. Israel felt it incumbent on all Member States of the Organization to desist from past policies of condemnation through one-sided resolutions fraught with ambiguity. When two parties should be working together to achieve peace, such finger-pointing resolutions only drove them further apart. The continued violence and corruption of the Palestinian leadership had arrested progress. The violence on the ground was not resolved by the adoption of such wording. Nor did it alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, let alone, bring peace any closer. Only an end to terrorism and incitement to terrorism could accomplish that.

77. **Mr. Sabbagh** (Observer for Syria) said that the support given to the draft resolution proved the commitment of the international community to the peace process in the Middle East and its understanding of the grave threat that the policies of the Israeli Government posed to that peace, through disregard for the resolutions of the United Nations and violation of international norms. The international community had to assume its responsibility and to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in conformity with resolutions calling for international legitimacy and the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied territories to the lines of June 1967.

78. He invited the Council to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/89-E/2004/21).

79. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.